



Preparing for Early Achievers

Early Achievers, Washington's quality rating and improvement system, is a voluntary rating system for child care providers. The first phase of the statewide rollout started July 1, 2012 in six regions across the state. The statewide expansion will be complete in July 2013. In the meantime, there are several things that child care providers can do to prepare for participating in Early Achievers.

Training

1. Get a jump start on the Level 2 training requirements by taking one or more of the Level 2 online trainings.
2. Attend an **Early Achievers Information Session** in your area.

Preparing

1. Visit the [Department of Early Learning website](#) to learn more about **Early Achievers**.
2. Learn more about **Strengthening Families** by visiting the [Center for the Study of Social Policy website](#).
3. Learn more about [Learn the Signs. Act Early](#) and access free materials on child development by visiting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website.
4. Visit the [Center on the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning \(CSEFEL\) website](#) for resources and training about nurturing positive social and emotional development in children.
5. Create a [MERIT account and professional record](#). Ensure staff information is up to date and encourage staff to begin/complete the education verification process.

Connecting

1. Contact your local [Child Care Aware Washington](#) office for more information about Early Achievers.
2. [Contact an Early Achievers Mentor](#). Early Achievers mentors are participants who can share information about their experience with the program and offer peer support.

Planning

After you have had the opportunity to learn more about Early Achievers, you can begin preparing for participation by considering the following:

1. What can you do to prepare your program/staff to begin the quality improvement process?
2. Do you have policies in place that support and promote inclusion and diversity?
3. Have you developed professional development plans for yourself and your staff (if applicable)?